

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for displaying an occlusion of a display on said display comprising the steps of:
 - generating an image on said display;
 - capturing first contents of said display with an image capture device, said image capture device being spaced from said display;
 - analyzing said first contents to identify a first set of potentially occluded pixels;
 - changing a value of said first set of potentially occluded pixels on said display;
 - capturing second contents of said display with said image capture device;
 - selectively confirming said first set potentially occluded pixels as confirmed occluded pixels based on said second contents; and
 - generating said confirmed occluded pixels on said display using a predetermined display value.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of analyzing said first contents to identify said first set of potentially occluded pixels further comprises the step of
 - comparing a value of each pixel of said first contents to a corresponding value of each pixel of said image.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said display values represent one of a color and an intensity.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of changing a value further comprises the step of:

changing said value of said first set of potentially occluded pixels to a reserved value; and

regenerating said display using said reserved value for said first set of potentially occluded pixels and image values for remaining pixels.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

identifying display pixels within a predetermined distance of said confirmed occluded pixels as a second set of potentially occluded pixels;

changing a value of said second set of potentially occluded pixels on said display to a reserved value;

capturing third contents of said display using said image capture device; and

selectively confirming said second set of potentially occluded pixels as confirmed occluded pixels based on said third contents.

6. The method of claim 6, wherein said predetermined distance is user selectable.

7. A method for processing a displayed image comprising the steps of:

passively testing a version of said displayed image captured by an image capture device to determine if a portion of said displayed image is blocked from said image capture device; and

actively testing said portion of said displayed image to confirm whether said portion of said displayed image is blocked from said image capture device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said step of passively testing further comprises the step of:

comparing a value of each pixel of said version of said displayed image captured by said image capture device to a corresponding value of each pixel of said displayed image.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said step of actively testing further comprises the steps of:

changing a display value of said portion of said displayed image;

capturing another version of said displayed image with said image capture device; and

selectively confirming said portion of said displayed image as occluded based on an analysis of said another version.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said step of actively testing further comprises the step of:

testing another portion of said displayed image proximate said confirmed portion of said displayed image for occlusion.

11. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:

actively testing all of the pixels of said displayed image, prior to said step of passively testing, to initialize an estimate of said displayed image.

12. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:

changing a threshold associated with said step of passively testing said version of said displayed image, based upon a result of said step of actively said portion of said displayed image.

13. A computer-readable medium containing a program that performs the steps of:

passively testing a version of a displayed image captured by an image capture device to determine if a portion of said displayed image is blocked from said image capture device; and

actively testing said portion of said displayed image to confirm whether said portion of said displayed image is blocked from said image capture device.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein said step of passively testing further comprises the step of:

comparing a value of each pixel of said version of said displayed image captured by said image capture device to a corresponding value of each pixel of said displayed image.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein said step of actively testing further comprises the steps of:

changing a display value of said portion of said displayed image;

capturing another version of said displayed image with said image capture device; and

selectively confirming said portion of said displayed image as occluded based on an analysis of said another version.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein said step of actively testing further comprises the step of:

testing another portion of said displayed image proximate said confirmed portion of said displayed image for occlusion.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

actively testing all of the pixels of said displayed image, prior to said step of passively testing, to initialize an estimate of said displayed image.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

changing a threshold associated with said step of passively testing said version of said displayed image, based upon a result of said step of actively said portion of said displayed image.

19. An image processing system comprising:

a display for displaying said image;

an image capture device for capturing a version of said displayed image; and

a processor, connected to said display and said image capture device for passively testing said version of said displayed image captured by said image capture device to determine if a portion of said displayed image is blocked from said image capture device; and for actively testing said portion of said displayed image to confirm whether said portion of said displayed image is blocked from said image capture device.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein said processor performs said passive testing by comparing a value of each pixel of said version of said displayed image captured by said image capture device to a corresponding value of each pixel of said displayed image.

21. The system of claim 19 wherein said processor performs said active testing by changing a display value of said portion of said displayed image; capturing another version of said displayed image with said image capture device; and selectively confirming said portion of said displayed image as occluded based on an analysis of said another version.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein said processor performs said active testing by testing another portion of said displayed image proximate said confirmed portion of said displayed image for occlusion.

23. The system of claim 19, wherein said processor also performs active testing prior to said passive testing by actively testing all of the pixels of said displayed image to initialize an estimate of said displayed image.

24. The system of claim 19, wherein said processor also changes a threshold associated with said step of passively testing said version of said displayed image, based upon a result of said step of actively said portion of said displayed image.

25. An image processing system comprising:

means for displaying said image;

means for capturing a version of said displayed image; and

means, connected to said means for displaying and said means for capturing, for passively testing said version of said displayed image captured by said image capture device to determine if a portion of said displayed image is blocked from said image capture device and for actively testing said portion of said displayed image to confirm whether said portion of said displayed image is blocked from said image capture device.